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GRIPPING TALES OF SUSPENSE!

ACE

Nº 98 - JULY

ADVENTURES INTO THE

UNKNOWN

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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY

10¢



CODEN
WANTON

In this All-
Star Issue...

- THE BIGGEST THING
IN THE WORLD!
- I INVESTIGATE
THE UNKNOWN!
- THE SCRAMBLER!
- INSIDE THE SHELL!

WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



Over and over again—It's the same old story...

Finally a formula that really works



"Our fights have turned to kisses!"

It's hard to believe that my wife and I used to fight. We always argued and bickered. The only real reason for it was that both of us always felt so tired that we got on each other's nerves. Our family doctor told us many people become worn-out and short-tempered because their diets do not contain enough vitamins and minerals. To correct this condition we began taking Vitasafe Capsules! Before long we had more pep, our dispositions improved, we were back in each other's arms! Why don't you try Vitasafe Capsules and judge the results for yourself?

"I was ashamed to always be so tired!"

I always felt simply "run-down" and didn't know why until my doctor put me wise. He explained *why* I felt "tired"—*why* my youthful vigor was slipping away—and suggested that a nutritional vitamin-mineral formula could help. One day I sent for a 30-day trial supply of high-potency Vitasafe Capsules, and after taking one capsule each day for a short time, I began to feel *new zest for living!* Today I feel great—and you may too! See for yourself if you can again feel peppy and full of life. Mail the coupon as I did!



25¢ just to help cover shipping expenses of this FREE 30-DAY SUPPLY High-Potency Capsules LIPOTROPIC FACTORS, VITAMINS AND MINERALS

Safe nutritional formula containing 27 proven ingredients: Glutamic Acid, Choline, Inositol, Methionine, Citrus Bioflavonoid, 11 Vitamins plus 11 Minerals

To prove to you the remarkable advantages of the Vitasafe Plan...we will send you, without charge, a 30-day free supply of high potency VITASAFE C.F. CAPSULES so you can discover for yourself how much healthier, happier and peppier you may feel after a few days' trial! Just one of these capsules each day supplies your body with over *twice* the minimum adult daily requirement of Vitamins A, C, and D—*five times* the minimum adult daily requirement of Vitamin B-1, and the *full* concentra-

tion recommended by the National Research Council for the other four important vitamins! Each capsule contains the amazing Vitamin B-12, a vitamin that helps nourish your body organs.

Vitasafe Capsules also contain Glutamic Acid, a natural substance derived from wheat gluten and thought by many doctors to help nourish the brain cells for more power of concentration and increased mental alertness. And now, to top off this exclusive formula each capsule also brings you an important dosage of

Citrus Bioflavonoid—the anti-cold factor that has been so widely acclaimed. This formula is so complete it is available nowhere else *at any price!*

AMAZING PLAN SLASHES VITAMIN PRICES ALMOST IN HALF

With your free vitamins you will also receive complete details regarding the benefits of this amazing new Plan that provides you regularly with all the factory-fresh vitamins and minerals you will need. *You are under no obligation to buy anything!* If after taking your free Capsules for three weeks you are not entirely satisfied, simply return the handy postcard that comes with your free supply and that will end the matter. Otherwise it's up to us—you don't have to do a thing—and we will see that you get your monthly supplies of capsules *on time* for as long as you wish, at the low money-saving price of only \$2.78 per month (*a saving of 45%*).

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Yes, I accept your generous no-risk offer under the Vitasafe Plan as advertised in Adventures into the Unknown.

Send me my FREE 30-day supply of high-potency Vitasafe Capsules as checked below:

Man's Formula

Woman's Formula

I ENCLOSE 25¢ PER PACKAGE for packing and postage.

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This offer is limited to those who have never before taken advantage of this generous trial. Only one trial supply per person.

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(Canadian Formula adjusted to local conditions.)



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HERE IT IS...AN INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE RANGING FROM THE EARTH OUT INTO THE DISTANT REACHES OF UNCHARTED SPACE! GET SET FOR THRILLS AND CHILLS AS YOU MEET...

THE BIGGEST THING in the WORLD!



IT'S A STRANGE PLACE TO START A STORY--ABOARD A POWERFUL ROCKET BARRELING TOWARDS OUTER SPACE AT 10,000 MILES A MINUTE...



AND INSIDE, THE IMPACT OF HATRED SEEMED ALMOST TO DROWN OUT THE WHINE OF THE MIGHTY MOTORS...

SORRY YOU CAME ALONG
ON THIS TRIP, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE SCARED---YELLOW!
ADMIT IT, YOU
LITTLE...

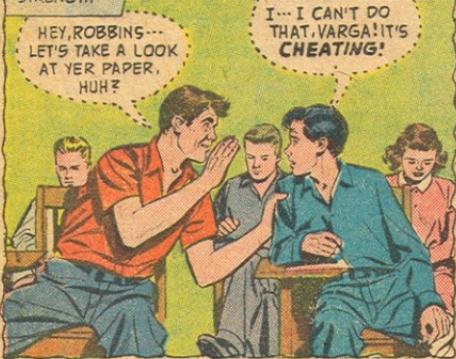
HOW DID ALL THIS
EVER HAPPEN? HOW
DID I EVER GET TO
BE HERE---WITH
HIM?



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Printed in U.S.A.

TOM ROBBINS' MIND WENT BACK OVER THE TEEMING YEARS! HIGH SCHOOL... HE'D BEEN A STUDIOUS LAD EVEN THEN, WORSHIPPING KNOWLEDGE! BUT NOT SO HENRY VARGA, WHO GLORIED ONLY IN HIS SIZE AND STRENGTH...



VARGA HAD NEVER FORGIVEN HIM FOR HIS REFUSAL...



AND NOW TOM REMEMBERED THAT SUMMER WHEN HE'D COME HOME ON VACATION FROM COLLEGE, TO FIND THAT MARGE LOWELL HAD MOVED INTO TOWN DURING HIS ABSENCE! NEIGHBORS, THEY TOOK TO EACH OTHER IMMEDIATELY...



HE'D NEVER KNOWN A GIRL LIKE THIS! NEXT EVENING... AS THEIR ACQUAINTANCE DEEPENED...



IT WAS HENRY VARGA... RESUMING THEIR OLD FEUD WITH Sudden VIOLENCE!



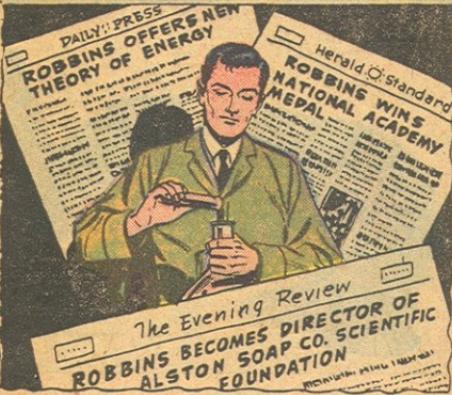
MAYBE NOW YOU'LL LEARN YOUR LESSON!



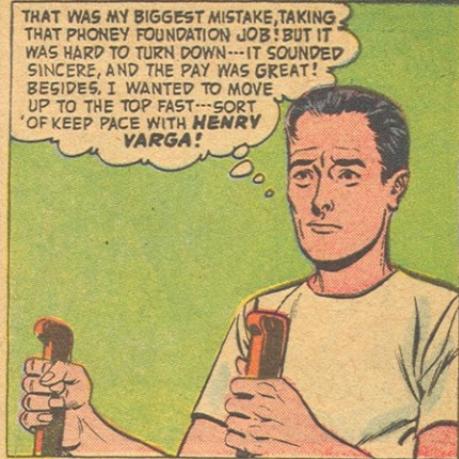
DAZEDLY, TOM LEFT, LOOKING BACK FOR HIS LAST GLIMPSE OF MARGE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME! THAT LOOK ON HER FACE... WAS IT MOCKERY?



HE NEVER FORGOT HER--EVEN WHEN COLLEGE WAS BEHIND HIM AND HE WENT OUT INTO THE WORLD AS A SCIENTIST! HIS UPWARD PROGRESS WAS METEORIC...



THAT WAS MY BIGGEST MISTAKE, TAKING THAT PHONEY FOUNDATION JOB! BUT IT WAS HARD TO TURN DOWN--IT SOUNDED SINCERE, AND THE PAY WAS GREAT! BESIDES, I WANTED TO MOVE UP TO THE TOP FAST--SORT 'O KEEP PACE WITH HENRY VARGA!



YES, HENRY VARGA HAD LIVED UP TO HIS PROPHESY! HE WAS FAST APPROACHING THE POSITION THAT HAD BEEN HIS AMBITION--BIGGEST THING IN THE WORLD...

MY ACQUISITION OF NATIONAL MANAGEMENT MAKES US THE WORLD'S LARGEST MONOPOLY! THE AUTHORITIES WON'T DARE INVESTIGATE--THEY KNOW ME AND THEY'RE AFRAID OF ME!



DAILY PRESS
VARGA BUSINESS EMPIRE CONTINUES GROWTH

AND TOM'S HEART WAS BITTER, FOR NOW CAME NEWS OF STILL ANOTHER VARGA SUCCESS...

The Evening Review

FINANCIER, YOUTHFUL SWEETHEART TO WED

HENRY VARGA

MARGE LOWELL

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ENGAGEMENT OF THESE TWO YOUNG FRIENDS.

WHERE HAVE I EVER GOT THEM ALONGSIDE OF HIM? AND NOW... MARGE...

IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT THE PRESIDENT OF TOM'S SOAP COMPANY CAME UP WITH WHAT HE CONSIDERED A WONDERFUL IDEA...

YOU--YOU WANT ME TO DEVELOP A NEW SOAP CONTAINING IRRADIATED SUNLIGHT? BUT--BUT HOW CAN YOU CAPTURE SUNLIGHT IN A SOAP?

THAT'S YOUR JOB, ROBBINS! WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'RE PAYING YOU FOR, ANYWAY? GET TO WORK... AND I WANT RESULTS!



SO TOM GOT TO WORK--AND FINALLY...

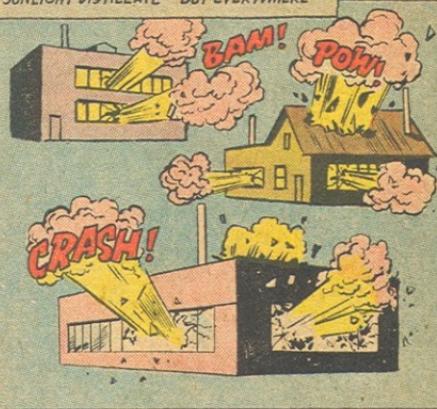
I THINK I'VE GOT IT--AN ACTUAL DISTILLATE OF SUNSHINE ITSELF! NOW TO SEE HOW IT MIXES WITH OUR SOAP CONSTITUENTS...



AS SOON AS HE HAD RECOVERED, TOM MADE HIS REPORT...



HE WENT FROM JOB TO JOB TRYING TO DEVELOP HIS SUNLIGHT DISTILLATE... BUT EVERYWHERE...



SORRY, ROBBINS, BUT THAT SUBSTANCE OF YOURS IS TOO UNCERTAIN, TOO VOLATILE... THERE'S NO APPLICATION FOR IT IN ITS PRESENT FORM! TAKE IT WITH YOU AND GET OUT OF HERE... BEFORE YOU BLOW THE WHOLE PLANT TO SMITHEREENS!

I KNOW I'VE GOT SOMETHING THERE... SOMETHING BIG, IF ONLY I CAN, HARNESS IT! I'LL TRY DEVELOPING IT ON MY OWN, EVEN IF IT TAKES MY LAST CENT!

ON HE WORKED... BUT WITH VICTORY IN SIGHT, HIS MONEY RAN OUT! HE WAS IN DESPAIR WHEN HE CHANCED UPON A TELEVISION INTERVIEW...

THAT'S RIGHT... I OWE MY SUCCESS TO LISTENING TO ANY PROPOSITION THAT COMES MY WAY, NO MATTER HOW HAREBRAINED! MOST OF THEM FLOP... BUT THERE'S ALWAYS ONE THAT'S A BIG SUCCESS!

WHY NOT? I'D DO ANYTHING TO KEEP ON WITH MY EXPERIMENTS... EVEN APPROACH VARGA!

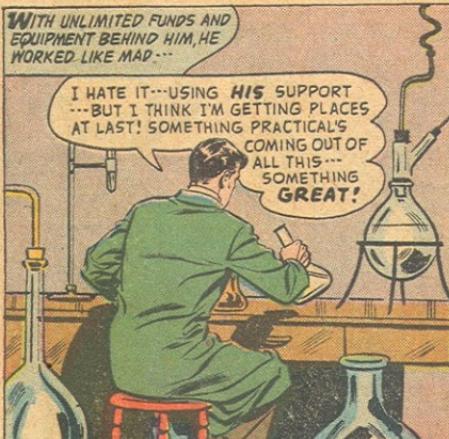
HE NEVER FORGOT HOW VARGA HUMILIATED HIM... IN HER PRESENCE...

LOOK AT HIM... THE EDUCATED MAN WHO WAS GOING TO GET PLACES WHILE A LUG LIKE ME FAILED... AND NOW HE COMES BEGGING TO ME! OKAY, ROBBINS, I'LL DO IT... JUST FOR THE LAUGHS! I THINK YOU'RE CRAZY, BUT I CAN CHARGE OFF MY INVESTMENT TO TAXES!



WITH UNLIMITED FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT BEHIND HIM, HE WORKED LIKE MAD...

I HATE IT... USING HIS SUPPORT... BUT I THINK I'M GETTING PLACES AT LAST! SOMETHING PRACTICAL'S COMING OUT OF ALL THIS... SOMETHING GREAT!



AND FINALLY... SUCCESS!

EE-YOWWW! LOOK AT THAT POWER... AND I CAN CONTROL IT!



YEAH--AND Dope THAT I WAS, I WAS **HAPPY**! I TOLD VARGA I'D FINALLY DEVELOPED A STABLE, TERRIFIC SOURCE OF ENERGY--THAT A SMALL AMOUNT OF MY FORMULA WOULD DELIVER A CONTINUOUS ENERGY UP TO 100,000 TIMES THE FORCE OF **DYNAMITE**! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE HAD IN MIND...



"I TOLD HIM HOW IT COULD BE USED TO TURN THE WHEELS OF INDUSTRY--BUT HE HAD ANOTHER IDEA..."

TAKE A LOOK!
WILL YOUR FORMULA
DO THIS?

I'M SURE IT
WILL--BUT
WHY--?



REMEMBER MY OLD AMBITION--TO BE THE **BIGGEST THING IN THE WORLD**? MISTER, THAT'LL BE THE MAN WHO FIRST FLIES TO THE STARS--AND IT'S GONNA BE **ME**! YOU GOTTA BUILD THE GREATEST ROCKET EVER MADE, ROBBINS! AND BY THE WAY... YOU'RE COMING ALONG!



CONGRATULATIONS,
TOM! THAT DISCOVERY
OF YOURS SHOWS
REAL BRILLIANCE!

WHY,
THANKS,
MARGE!

HOLD IT--ALL
HE'S DONE IS THE
DETAIL! BUT ME, I
GET VISION, I GET THINGS
DONE! AND WHEN SPACE
IS CONQUERED, IT'LL BE
ME, NOT
HIM THAT'S
RESPONSIBLE!

IT WAS THEN THAT THE BIG PROJECT COMMENCED! ALL OF TOM'S GREAT SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW WENT INTO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HUGE ROCKET SUCH AS NEVER HAD BEEN SEEN...



AND ALWAYS, MARGE WAS ON HAND, WATCHING HIM! HE FOUGHT AGAINST HIS GROWING FEELING FOR HER, BUT IT WAS NO USE...

WHENEVER I LOOK UP
... **YOU'RE** HERE!
SOMETIMES I THINK
YOU'RE LAUGHING
AT ME, LIKE
VARGA!

NO, TOM--YOU'RE
WRONG! I--I'VE
ALWAYS LIKED YOU--
NEVER FORGOT YOU
THROUGH THE YEARS...



BUT VARGA HAD OVERHEARD!

I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU
A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT
KIND OF A HERO HE IS!
YOU'LL SEE HOW HE STACKS
UP IN THE FACE OF DANGER
COMPARED TO A **REAL MAN**!
**YOU'RE COMING ALONG
ON OUR SPACE
FLIGHT,** MARGE!

NO, VARGA--NO! YOU
CAN'T EXPOSE A GIRL
TO SUCH PERIL!

BUT I WANT
TO GO--AND
SEE THE
COMPARISON
FOR MYSELF!



JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE...

I HATE TO SAY IT, MR. VARGA,
BUT YOUR REPUTATION FOR **TRUTH**
IN YOUR VARIOUS PROJECTS HASN'T
ALWAYS BEEN THE BEST! HOW WILL
THE PRESS KNOW THAT YOU ACTUALLY
ARRIVED AT ANOTHER PLANET WHEN
AND IF YOU RETURN?

DON'T WORRY...
I'LL BRING BACK
SOME REAL **PROOF!**
WELL...TIME TO
SHOVE OFF,
BOYS!

THE ROAR OF MIGHTY MOTORS...A TERRIFIC,
WHINING BLAST...TAKEOFF!



THEIR DESTINATION WAS **CORDOVA**
—A MINOR PLANET BETWEEN THE
ORBITS OF MARS AND JUPITER,
SELECTED BECAUSE SCIENTIFIC
KNOWLEDGE INDICATED THE
POSSIBILITY THAT IT MIGHT
SUSTAIN LIFE...

DESPITE THEIR BLAZING SPEED,
THERE WAS THE MONOTONY OF A
LONG JOURNEY THROUGH SPACE!
THEN, FINALLY...

NOW THEY HAD ENTERED THE
SMALL PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE...
AND REELED BACK BEFORE A
TERRIBLE ONSET!

THERE
SHE IS!
WE'RE GOING
TO MAKE IT,
ALL RIGHT!

WHY SHOULDN'T
WE? WHEN HENRY
VARGA GIVES A
PROJECT HIS
PERSONAL ATTENTION
...IT CAN'T FAIL!

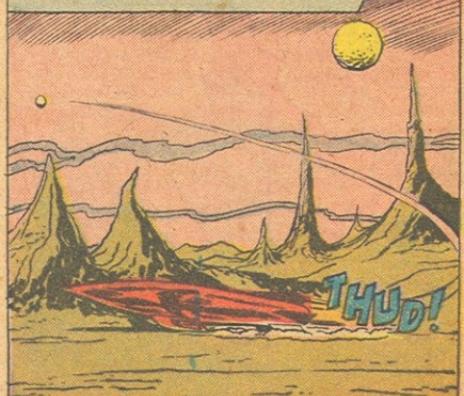
HOLY SMOKE, THOSE
MONSTERS...THEY'RE LIKE
PREHISTORIC PTERODACTYLS!
THEY'LL RIP THE ROCKET
APART...UNLESS...



THERE WAS ONLY ONE POWER
STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP THEM
...AND TOM CALLED IT INTO
PLAY!

THAT
DOES IT!
THEY'RE
FINISHED!

NEXT CAME LANDING...ON THAT FAR-OFF DOT IN SPACE
NEVER BEFORE VIEWED BY HUMAN EYES...



(CONTINUED ON PAGE AFTER NEXT)

giant inflatable toys of pre-historic monsters who
ruled the earth millions of years ago



7 GIGANTIC DINOSAURS

they stand almost

MOLDED ONE-PIECE
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EVEN THE TINIEST
BREEZE ANIMATES THEM!

THEY SWING AND SWAY
IN EVERY DIRECTION!

THEY BEND, LEAN,
AND TILT!

THEY BOUNCE AND HOP!

7 DIFFERENT
PRE-HISTORIC
MONSTERS
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ONCE AGAIN THAT STRANGE SUMMONS...BUT THIS TIME, IT BROUGHT HEAVY REINFORCEMENTS!



I DON'T WANT TO HURT THESE FELLAS...THEY'RE ONLY GOING FOR US BECAUSE THEY THINK THEY'RE IN DANGER! FIRING OVER THEIR HEADS OUGHT TO DO IT...AND IT DOES!



SEE, MARGE? NO HARM IN 'EM!

NOT IN A BEAR, EITHER...UNTIL YOU TRY TO PICK UP ITS CUB! THAT WAS QUICK ACTION ON YOUR PART...AND YOU SAVED ME!



I ... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU...

OKAY, BREAK IT UP! YOU CAN STOP TRYING TO PLAY THE HERO. ROBBINS...WE KNOW YOU TOO WELL FOR THAT!



YOU WEAK-KNEED SISY, YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'VE GOT SOMEBODY LIKE ME ALONG! THERE'S NOTHING I'M AFRAID OF... NOTHING!

VARGA! L-LOOK BEHIND YOU!



THEIR EXPLORATION CONTINUED! VARGA SET A HOT PACE, OUTDISTANCING THE OTHERS...

CAN'T YOU SLOW DOWN A LITTLE? MARGE CAN'T TAKE IT!

WHY BLAME HER, WHEN IT'S YOUR FAULT? YOU'RE JUST HANGING BACK BECAUSE YOU'RE SCARED!



BEFORE SUCH AN AWFUL MENACE, THERE WAS ONLY FLIGHT...

WAIT! D-DON'T LEAVE ME...

IF WE CAN... MAKE THE ROCKET ... THERE'S STILL A CHANCE...



WITH A GOOD LEAD, TOM AND MARGE MANAGED TO REACH AND BOARD THE ROCKET! BUT VARGA WASN'T QUITE THAT LUCKY...

NO...
NO...



AND INSIDE...

THERE ISN'T...
MUCH TIME...
TO SAVE HIM...



A TERRIFIC BLAST OF PURE ENERGY FROM THE TAIL FINS... AND THE MIGHTY CREATURE WAS LEFT UNCONSCIOUS!

VROOOOM!



INCLUDED IN THE ROCKET'S SUPPLIES WERE GIGANTIC CHAINS OF UNBREAKABLE CARBON STEEL, WHICH VARGA USED TO BIND THE UNCONSCIOUS ANIMAL SECURELY! AS IT CAME TO...

IT'S DIFFERENT NOW THAN WHEN YOU WERE CHASING ME, EH? NOW YOU'RE HELPLESS... IN CHAINS! I'M THE BOSS, YOU DEVIL... AND I'LL TEACH YOU TO FEAR ME, TO DO WHAT I WANT!



THERE WAS ANOTHER WEEK OF EXPLORATION UNTIL BLASTOFF! REPEATEDLY, VARGA HUNG OVER THE CHAINED BEAST, SHRIEKING, GLOATING OVER ITS HELPLESSNESS...

HE---HE
MUST BE
INSANE! CAN'T
YOU STOP
HIM?

I'LL
DO MY
BEST...



BUT WHEN TOM TRIED TO INTERFERE...

I DID IT BEFORE AND
I'LL DO IT AGAIN!
SEEMS YOU'VE
GOT TO LEARN
WHO'S BOSS
AROUND HERE
TOO!

PLEASE...
DON'T!



NOW THE RETURN TRIP THROUGH OUTER SPACE BEGAN! THIS TIME, THERE WAS NO ATTACK---FOR SOMETHING ELSE KEPT THE FIERCE PTERODACTYLS AT BAY...



SEE HOW I SHUT HIM UP? HE'S LEARNED HIS LESSON, ALL RIGHT!

THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE HE'S LEARNED... TO HATE YOU! JUST PRAY HE NEVER GETS LOOSE, VARGA!



THEY WERE COMING IN FOR A LANDING NEAR TOM'S LABORATORY WHEN IT HAPPENED...



DOWN BELOW, THE CROWDS WAITED TO GREET THE SPACE ADVENTURERS! THEY'LL NEVER FORGET THE SIGHT THEY SAW...



NEXT MOMENT...



WHEN THE RESCUE CREWS HAD DONE THEIR WORK...

I--I'M TELLING YOU IT'S A DINOSAUR!
VARGA DIDN'T COME THROUGH ALIVE! THE OTHER TWO AREN'T BADLY HURT, THOUGH---THE DINOSAUR'S BODY CUSHIONED THE IMPACT FOR THEM!



THEY WERE RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL WITHIN A FEW DAYS... AND MARGE HAD A REVELATION TO MAKE...

I--I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL---THE MAN YOU LOVED... I DIDN'T LOVE HIM---I NEVER LOVED HIM! HE HAD ME TERRORIZED, JUST AS HE HAD EVERYONE ELSE---INCLUDING YOU! HE DOMINATED ME COMPLETELY! THE TRUTH IS THERE'S BEEN SOMEONE ELSE I REALLY CARED FOR... SOMEONE I'VE CARED FOR FOR YEARS!...OH, DON'T YOU KNOW?



NOW TOM KNEW---AT LAST---AND THE FUTURE WAS BRIGHT...



The END!

EVEN THE STRONGEST MAN CAN GO TO PIECES WHEN HE MEETS...

The SCRAMBLER!

WHERE'S MY
HEAD? WHICH ARE
MY ARMS AND LEGS?
AM I GOING
BACKWARD OR
FORWARD?

TAKE IT EASY!
YOU'LL GET USED TO
IT IN A MOMENT!
GETTING AROUND
WILL BE SIMPLE!

EVER GO TO A MODERN MUSEUM AND
LOOK AT SOME OF THE WEIRDER
PICTURES? THEY MAY STRIKE YOU AS A
LUNATIC'S PIPE DREAM! BUT WHAT
WOULD HAPPEN IF SUCH ARTISTIC
FANTASIES BECAME REALITY? HOW
DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD SURVIVE
IF SOME DAY YOU MET UP WITH...
THE SCRAMBLER!

JOHN DELSON
HAD RETIRED
TO NEVADA
YEARS BEFORE!
HIS HAD
BEEN A
FULL, RICH
LIFE...

I NEVER GET
TIRED OF
LOOKING AT
THE SUN SET
OVER BALD
PEAK! I JUST
LOVE THIS
COUNTRY!

IT'S SO PEACEFUL
AND QUIET... I'M
GLAD THERE AREN'T
ANY OTHER HOUSES
FOR MILES
AROUND...

THEIR LIVES WERE PLACID, EACH
PLEASANT DAY WAS LIKE THE ONE
BEFORE...

EVER MISS
THE HUSTLE
AND BUSTLE
OF BUSINESS,
JOHN?

NOPE! BELIEVE
ME, I'VE HAD
ENOUGH EXCITEMENT
FOR ONE LIFETIME!

AS WAS THEIR HABIT, THEY AWOKE BRIGHT AND EARLY THE NEXT MORNING! JOHN STEPPED OUT ON THE PORCH TO SURVEY THE MAGNIFICENT SCENERY...

JUMPIN' JEHOSEPHAT! BESS! COME OUT HERE! QUICK!



HE...HE HUNG UP ON ME! CALLED ME A CRACKPOT! WHAT'S GOING ON, BESS?



WHAT IS IT, DEAR?
WHAT IS...
OH, NO!
MERCIFUL HEAVENS!

THEN YOU SEE IT TOO!
BALD PEAK HAS MOVED
DURING THE NIGHT!
IT'S SEVERAL MILES
CLOSER TO US--AND
THE OTHER MOUNTAINS
ARE IN THE SAME
PLACE!

HE IMMEDIATELY CALLED THE MAIN STATE NEWSPAPER...

NOW LOOK HERE, WHO ARE YOU CALLING CRAZY? I'M TELLING YOU THERE HAD TO BE AN EARTHQUAKE DURING THE NIGHT! HOW ELSE COULD A WHOLE MOUNTAIN MOVE?



CLICK.
I... I DON'T KNOW,
JOHN! I JUST DON'T
KNOW!

JOHN DELSON
HAD ALWAYS
BEEN A
DETERMINED
MAN. HE LOST
NO TIME
INVESTIGATING...

WHAT DID I TELL YOU? LOOK AT THE
HUGE SCAR RIGHT HERE... WHERE
BALD PEAK USED TO BE!
SOMEHOW, THAT THING GOT PICKED
UP DURING THE NIGHT AND PLACED
DOWN OVER THERE!

BUT DEAR, THERE'S NO
FORCE ON EARTH THAT
COULD DO A THING LIKE
THAT!



INSPECTING BALD PEAK,
THEY FOUND
THE EARTH
QUITE LOOSE
FISURES
EVERWHERE...

I'M GOING TO GET SOME GEOLOGISTS
DOWN HERE TO EXPLAIN THINGS! I'LL
SPEND EVERY PENNY I'VE GOT TO GET
TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!

NOW, NOW, WHAT'S
THE DIFFERENCE?
DON'T GET SO
EXCITED!
REMEMBER
YOUR
HEART...

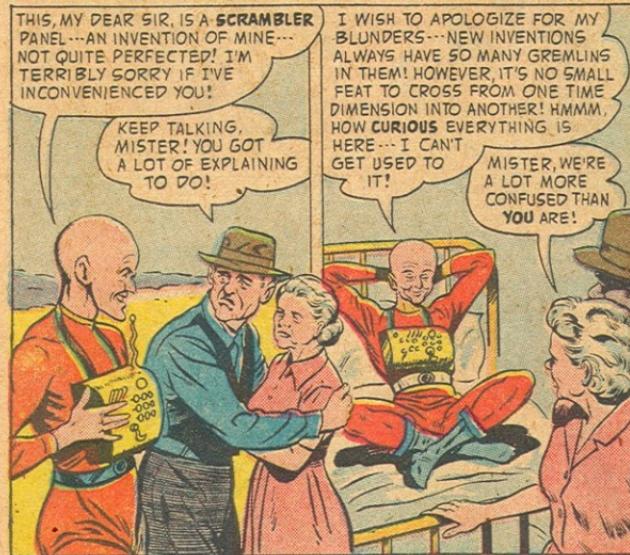
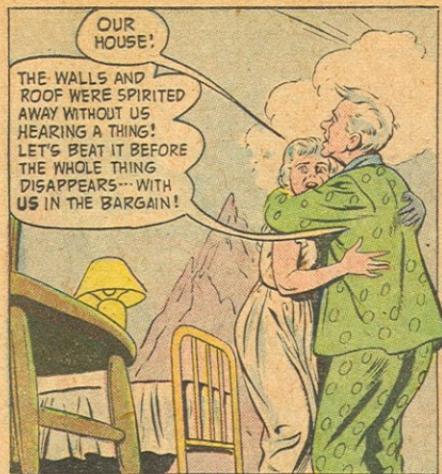


I'LL JUST
COLLECT A
FEW OF
THESE
ROCKS
AND...

OHHH! OH,
DEAR! THIS
IS AWFUL!







DR. IKOBEWATI'S MANNER HAD A STRANGELY SOOTHING EFFECT ON THEM; GONE WAS ALL TRACE OF FEAR AS THEY EXPLAINED WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THEM IN THE PRECEDING HOURS...

AH, YES! MOVING THE MOUNTAIN AND GETTING THE JUNGLE HERE WERE MISCALCULATIONS ON MY PART--MY APOLOGIES! LET ME SHOW YOU-- I'LL PRODUCE A GIRAFFE AND A PANTHER FROM AFRICA!

NO... DON'T!

A FLICK OF THE DIALS AND BUTTONS AND...

OOPS! ANOTHER MISTAKE! MUST HAVE SOME CROSSED WIRING!

GET 'EM OUT OF HERE, FAST!



IN A TWINKLING, THE ANIMALS HAD VANISHED...

DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN! LOOK HERE, YOU CAN'T GO AROUND SCRAMBLING THINGS LIKE THAT! WHY DON'T YOU PUT OUR HOUSE TOGETHER, SHIFT BALD PEAK BACK AND BEAT IT TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM?

ANGRILY, DR. IKOBEWATI MANIPULATED HIS SCRAMBLED BOX...

A'EEE! I'M COMING APART! OH, I'M TERRIBLY SORRY! I'VE MISCALCULATED AGAIN! I'M AFRAID YOU'RE BOTH COMING INTO MY TIME DIMENSION!

AN IMMENSE FORCE FIELD GRIPPED THEM! FOR SEVERAL MOMENTS THERE WAS VIOLENT BUFFETING, AND THEN AN ABRUPT HALT...

JOHN: WHICH IS YOU? OH, GOSH, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US? CALM YOURSELVES, PLEASE! YOU'LL BE ORIENTED IN A MOMENT! THE FIRST FEW MOMENTS ARE ALWAYS DIFFICULT...



THANK HEAVENS! I CAN'T SEE YOU NORMALLY, BUT I KNOW HOW YOUR HAND FEELS! DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND, BESS!

LOVELY LANDSCAPE, ISN'T IT? LOOK AT THOSE FIELDS AND HILLS! AH, THOSE GLORIOUS ORANGE CLOUDS! DO YOU REALIZE YOUR WORLD IS QUITE DULL?

OH, LOOK! THERE'S THE ROOF AND WALLS OF OUR HOUSE... I RECOGNIZE OUR PICTURES!

QUITE SO! THAT WAS ANOTHER--ER... ACCIDENT! I'D BETTER TAKE YOU ALL BACK NOW! THE AUTHORITIES DISAPPROVE OF CLUTTERING UP THE LANDSCAPE WITH STRANGE OBJECTS!



AS THE PROCESS WAS REVERSED...

AH, WHAT A RELIEF!
EVERYTHING'S BACK
TO NORMAL AGAIN!
EVEN BALD PEAK!

I'M AFRAID MY
INVENTION IS SOMEWHAT
IMPRactical! THE
DIMENSIONS WERE
NEVER MEANT TO
GET MIXED UP!

IMPractical?
THAT THING'S
COMPLETELY
USELESS! IT'S
A MENACE!
WORTHLESS!

OH, COME NOW...IT HAS SOME MINOR
VIRTUES! I COULD SCRABBLE YOU A
NEW FACE OR BODY... SCRABBLE GOLD
OUT OF THE GROUND! I'D LIKE TO DO
YOU BOTH A FAVOR...TO MAKE UP
FOR THE TROUBLE I'VE
CAUSED!



WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING WE WANT...
EXCEPT YOUTH! DON'T SUPPOSE YOU
COULD SCRABBLE AWAY SOME 40
YEARS, COULD YOU?

I DON'T SEE
WHY NOT! 40
YEARS IT
SHALL BE!

H-HELP!
I'M
GETTING
DIZZY!

PARDON THE
INCONVENIENCE!
COULDN'T BE
HELPED! HMM...
HOW DO I SHUT
THIS THING OFF
EXACTLY
RIGHT?

SUDDENLY...

OH, JOHN
...IT'S
TRUE!

IT'S LIKE...LIKE
THE DAY WE WERE
MARRIED!



GOSH,
MISTER!
HOW CAN
WE THANK
YOU?

TUT-TUT! NOTHING
TO IT! AND NOW,
MY FRIENDS...
FAREWELL! YOU
WON'T BE TROUBLED
AGAIN... MY WORD
OF HONOR! I'LL
DESTROY THIS
THING AT ONCE!

HE...
HE'S
GONE!
I SHOULD
HAVE MADE
HIM GIVE ME
A PATENT ON
THAT THING!
I COULD MAKE
MILLIONS!

AS TWO
YOUNG AND
VIGOROUS
PEOPLE,
THEY QUICKLY
GAVE UP
THEIR SERENE
LIFE! THEY
MOVED
TO A CITY
APARTMENT
AND JOHN
WENT BACK
TO BUSINESS!
IT HAD TO BE
A NEW CITY,
OF COURSE,
WHERE
THEY WERE
UNKNOWN...

HOW'D YOU LIKE
YOUR EGGS?
SCRAMBLED?

SCRAMBLED?
HONEY, I THOUGHT
THAT WORD IN
THIS HOUSE
WAS TABOO!



EDITOR

LET'S TALK IT OVER!

There's a lot to talk over this month with all you wonderful "Adventures Into The Unknown" fans—but actually, it's going to consist of readers talking to each other through the medium of the letters which have been sent in to us. And, if you don't mind, we'll put in our oar by commenting on each letter you see published. And by the way—have you sent in yours? We want to hear from you as to how you like our magazine, and its stories—but if there's something that you sincerely dislike, let us know that, too! Address your letter to The Editor, "Adventures Into The Unknown," 347 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y. And now let's start going over the mailbag!

"Dear Editor:-

I've been reading 'Adventures Into The Unknown' for years, and have found nearly all the issues wonderful reading. Recently, I read 'Pipe Dream' and loved it. It has all the truly wonderful instincts of a good story. I think your magazine is just great! Please try to get some more stories that live up to 'Pipe Dream'! A fan forever.

—Alice Colon, New York, N.Y."

We wish they could all equal "Pipe Dream," Alice, because that was one of the best stories we've ever run. But we'll keep trying!

"Dear Editor:-

Mystery and Adventure are my middle names. I'm intrigued by fascinating and exciting mysteries, and they're what I find in 'Adventures Into The Unknown.' I read your stories over and over, and believe me, I'm never bored! One of my favorites was 'Celeste The Bewitching,' but I look forward to all your stories! Your mystery reader,

—Sheila Patterson, Brooklyn, N.Y."

You've got lots of company, Sheila—seems like everybody goes for a really good mystery! We like to feel that that's our specialty, so if we ever fall down on the job, let us know!

"Dear Editor:-

I was reading your 'Let's Talk It Over' section and, in your February issue, I came across a letter from an English schoolboy. Maybe I'm being over-patriotic, but I didn't like the crack you printed that English comic books aren't as exciting as your American ones. Also that remark about your books being sold in most parts of the world—as if they weren't in England! I wish you Americans would get off your pedestal and recognize the fact that there are countries, and, to be more specific, magazines, which are as good as if not better than yours. Now that I am finished chopping you up, I would like to say that 'Adventures Into The Unknown' is really very good, and as far as I'm concerned, the best one on the

American market. I know you'll print the last part, and I'm not going to say that you won't print the first—all I'll say is that you had better!

—Doug McIntyre, Port Arthur, Canada"

Looks like we've got an international situation here, Doug—and if it means war, sound the bugles! But just go back to the February issue, and you'll note that we never for one second criticised English comic books! That statement was made by the lad who wrote in from England, not us. And in our comment, we distinctly stated that he should be able to buy our books in England! So what's the complaint? But we're friends anyway!

"Dear Editor:-

I've been reading 'Adventures Into The Unknown' for about a year and a half and I think it's the greatest. Out of all the issues I've read, I think March was the best. I especially liked 'The Endless Chain,' which kept me wondering. You should print more stories like this. Oh, by the way—"The Strangeness of Mr. McGillicuddy" was one of the best you've printed!

—Vinnie Valentino, Staten Island, N.Y."

Say, how about that "Endless Chain?" It sure did have an intriguing plot, didn't it? Take a medal for good taste, Vinnie, because that one and the "McGillicuddy" yarn were standouts, we like to think!

"Dear Editor:-

I've been reading 'Adventures Into The Unknown' for a long time and I think it's the best in its field—but I think you should get the facts on things right before you use them in your stories. In your January No. 92 issue, 'Annals of the Occult' has a mistake in it. To be hypnotized, you must be willing. But even with that error, the story was fine, as was the rest of the issue.

—Robert Western, Detroit, Mich."

What can we say, Robert? We pulled a rock in letting that detail slip by, and we're sorry for it. You're right and we're wrong and we'll be more careful in the future!

"Dear Editor:-

Just read the December issue of 'Adventures Into The Unknown' and thought I'd drop a line to help you along where you needed it. To begin with, your magazine is the best there is today. Right on your heels is 'Forbidden Worlds,' but with an issue like this one, your leadership is assured. 'Doom Foiled' was terrific—I was really intrigued. 'A Higher Power' was a fine little story that really made you wonder. 'The Anyweight Champion' was wonderful, and 'Remote Control' rounded out a splendid issue with a rousing tale, I have just one gripe about the issue. Your text story, 'Little Man Who Wasn't There' was not only an old plot, but a poor story besides. But all in all, congratulations! All you must do is keep up such good work as this and you'll not

only keep ahead of your competitor, but win many more fans like me besides!

—Robert Adolph, Forest Hills, N.Y.
It gives us quite a lift to know how much you like our book, Robert. You may not know it, but you've given us a double-barreled compliment—because "Forbidden Worlds," which you rank as our nearest competitor, is also our property—a companion magazine to "Adventures Into The Unknown!"

"Dear Editor:-

I've just finished reading the January issue of 'Adventures Into The Unknown' and I think that 'Da Vinci's Wig,' 'Cave Drawing' and 'Explanation, Please' were just great! Unfortunately, however, I and many of my friends think that 'Pie In The Sky' was simply the worst story we ever read! I like your magazine very much, but if that junk is the best you have, I'd much rather read about witches and zombies!

—Peter Dolinger"

Well, Peter! Most certainly you're entitled to your opinion, and we're sorry that you didn't like "Pie In The Sky." Particularly sorry, because in choosing this story, we were convinced that it was a yarn our readers would go for. The question is, did we go wrong—or is your opinion in error? We'd like to leave it to our fans! Write in, friends, and tell us what you think about it!

"Dear Editor:-

Your January issue was great! 'Pie In The Sky,' 'Annals Of The Occult' and 'Da Vinci's Wig' were good, and 'Explanation, Please' was pretty good, but I wish you would stop printing one and two-page stories. It's no fun reading them. I think you should stick to three or four seven or eight page stories in each issue of 'Adventures Into The Unknown.'

—E. J. Manual, Jr., Downers Grove, Ill.
Guess differences of opinion are what make the world go around—here's somebody who likes "Pie In The Sky." But this fan has his own pet hates—short stories! How do the rest of you feel about it? Frankly, your editor is partial to long stories himself, because the additional length permits a fine, complete plot. But frequently, in order to balance an issue and have just the right number of pages, a bit of the short stuff becomes necessary!

"Dear Editor:-

I have all types of comic magazines, but none can match 'Adventures Into The Unknown.' All your stories are exciting and different. Keep printing stories like 'The Long, Long Sleep' and I'll keep buying. I also like your art work and your clear, easy-to-read print.

—Abe Stavsky, New York, N.Y.
Thanks, Abe, for compliments which we're human enough to love. Sometimes, frankly, we worry about our print, after the huge, high-speed color presses get through with it. We hope it's always clear and easy-to-read. If this proves not to be the case at any time, we want to hear from you fans!

"Dear Editor:-

I'm beginning my letter as I hope you'll begin yours, with an apology. I apologize for

the length of my letter, but I'm new at writing this sort of stuff. I am considered fairly intelligent in school, and I read your magazine for relaxation—I like it! The only thing that bugs me is this column. Here's my gripe: with reference to Don Flowers' letter and your reply, in the February issue, I feel that many guys might write just to see their names in print and you don't have to point it out, because in my eyes, you're just belittling yourself. Very few people, not excluding myself, don't like to see their names in print! Just one more gripe—re the letter of Allie Veorentz, same issue, and your reply. It's obvious that Allie was just ranking you out in what he thought was a clever fashion, but there was no need for you to insult him so openly. Just so we part friends, I'll repeat myself and say I really like your magazine, even if I am intelligent. I hope this letter wasn't too long, because I'll be frank with you—I'd like to see it in print.

—Mike Kalkstein, Forest Hills, L.I."

Before we start fighting with you, Mike, let's admit that there's justice in a lot of what you say. Maybe we shouldn't flare back at the writers of some of the letters we get. But darn it, you've got to realize we're human. This magazine is very close to our hearts, and we're trying to do our best to make it as perfect as we can. We make our mistakes and people don't have to like what we do at all times, but we do want sincerity and not insults. So you like our magazine even if you are intelligent, eh? Don't be so superior, please! The stories you read in "Adventures Into The Unknown" are a darned sight better than many you'll find in television or the movies—and our readership goes all the way up the line to college instructors! But thanks for a good letter, anyway!

"Dear Editor:-

I've just finished reading your March issue of 'Adventures Into The Unknown.' I think it was one of the best numbers you've ever published. 'Mushroom Madness' and 'The Endless Chain' were the greatest. I don't think the story 'The Repair Shop' quite followed the cover, but it was pretty eye-catching. All in all, you're doing a wonderful job—keep it up! A reader in Honolulu—

—Joyce Tanaka, Honolulu, Oahu
We get a bang out of hearing from far-off fans, because it reveals the distant spots to which our magazine penetrates. Nice knowing you, Joyce!

"Dear Editor:-

I'm a fairly new reader of 'Adventures Into The Unknown,' and I think it's great, really great! Everytime a shipment of comics comes into the store, I'm always there, one of the first. By the way, some of the stories I've liked best were 'The Strangeness of Mr. McGillicuddy' and 'The Endless Chain.' I also like your short stories. Keep your quality as high as it's been and you'll never want for readers!

—Steven Gordon, Medway, Mass.
We ourselves go for the two stories you've mentioned, Steven. We'd just love to make every one of our stories as good as those two, but that's a pretty tall order. But we'll be in there trying!

EARN SPENDING MONEY

Showing Items Like These!

Humorous, brightly colored Mr. Bubbles Turtle catches everyone's fancy. Just squeeze his soft plastic tummy and his head pops high as the bubbles fly. Comes with packet of bubble soap. Fill plastic pouch with regular soap solution. Eight inches high.

OVER 700 MONEY-MAKERS

Mr. Bubbles is only one of over, 700 fast-selling novelties, gifts, housewares, greeting cards, and toys you'll find in North Star's exciting catalog. Show and sell to friends, neighbors, relatives. You'll be the hit of the neighborhood and you'll be making extra money with items so new, many have never been seen in your community!



GET SAMPLE
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Order Mr. Bubbles and receive
a complete money-making kit
now! Everything you'll need
to start making money... Only

NORTH STAR, 8-544, Finch Building, St. Paul 1, Minn.
Please send Mr. Bubbles and Money Making Kit. Enclosed is \$1.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ZONE _____ STATE _____

A BIG LAUGH Every Time!



Giant Set of 14 Sure-Fire PARTY TRICKS

Be the LIFE OF THE PARTY!



The Set
Complete
Only

\$1.00

RUSH COUPON TODAY...
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Now for the first time ever, you can have a "bag of magic tricks" of your own. Be the life of the party—the center of attraction. Each trick a "wow." Simple for you to pull—but the sort of gag that surprises, fools and draws a big laugh every time.

Set consists of:

- 1. Sneeze Powder
- 2. Nail thru Finger
- 3. Floating Sugar
(will not dissolve)
- 4. Hindu Mystic Trick
- 5. Hot Seal Joke
- 6. Invisible Ink
(writing fades away)
- 7. Snapping Chewing Gum
- 8. Trick Soap
(hands get black)
- 9. Imitation Lit Cigarette
- 10. Hot Pepper Chewing Gum
- 11. Lovers Fun Card Set
- 12. Stinko Slinkers
- 13. Wonder Voice Thrower
- 14. Suckers Card Trick

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31 West 47th St., New York 36, N.Y.

Please rush me Giant Set of 14 Sure-Fire Fun, Magic
and Party Tricks. I am enclosing \$1.00 in full payment.

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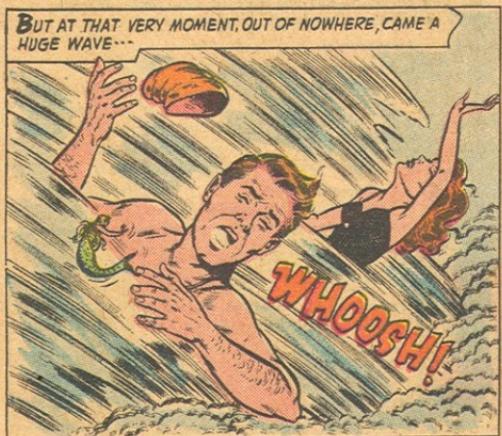
City & Zone _____

State _____

INSIDE THE SHELL



IT ALL STARTED AS A SEASIDE HOLIDAY...



I'VE GOT THE STRANGEST JOB IN THE WORLD! IT'S TOPS FOR THRILLS AND GASPS...AND AMAZING ENCOUNTERS COME CONSTANTLY! YOU SEE...

9 INVESTIGATE the UNKNOWN!



HELLO, THERE... I'M ADAM JONES, AND WE'VE MET BEFORE! YOU'LL DOUBTLESS REMEMBER THAT IT'S MY JOB TO REPORT ON CASES SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHIC RESEARCH, WHICH I SERVE AS FIELD REPRESENTATIVE! GENERALLY, I FIND THEY'RE OUTRIGHT FAKES... BUT SOMETIMES... WELL, THERE'S CAUSE TO WONDER!



INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHIC RESEARCH

INVESTIGATION PROJECT: #541Z

13 Manor Drive
Carton, Penn.

PREMISES:

COMPLAINT:

Unexplained
auditory and visual
manifestations

LIKE THIS ONE, FOR INSTANCE
...ONE OF THE STRANGEST, MOST
COMPLEX CASES OF MY CAREER!
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT
...BECAUSE YOU'VE NEVER MET
ANYTHING LIKE IT!

I'D BEEN SUMMONED TO THE OFFICES OF ANDERSON PROPERTIES, INC., IN PITTSBURGH...

I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU THE BARE OUTLINE OF THE CASE, MR. JONES! THREE YEARS AGO, WE PURCHASED AN OLD RESIDENCE IN CARRTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR RENTAL PURPOSES! FRANKLY, WE GOT IT AT A VERY LOW PRICE, BUT WE WEREN'T LOOKING GIFT HORSES IN THE MOUTH!

AND NOW YOU'RE CALLING ME IN BECAUSE...

YES---BECAUSE OF CERTAIN CONTINUED...AH ...PHENOMENA! TO BE BRIEF, NO TENANT WILL STAY IN THE HOUSE, AND OUR INVESTMENT SEEMS A LOSS! NOW, FRANKLY, I DON'T BELIEVE IN WHAT I'VE HEARD---BUT FOR THE DETAILS, I'M GOING TO REFER YOU TO THE LOCAL REALTY AGENT IN CARRTOWN WHO MANAGES THE PROPERTY FOR US!

I SET OUT FOR CARRTOWN IMMEDIATELY! THE MAN I WAS TO SEE WAS A MR. RUFUS DEAKINS...

ALL MY CASES HAVE BEEN DUDS LATELY---PHONEY SPOOKS GOTTEN UP EITHER AS GAGS OR FOR SOMEBODY'S PROFIT! I'LL BE SURPRISED IF THIS ONE DOESN'T FALL INTO THE SAME CATEGORY!

DEAKINS
REALTORS
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

OH, YOU'RE A KIND OF SPOOK DETECTIVE, HUH? WELL, MISTER, YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE! THAT OLD HOUSE IS FULL OF 'EM!

I'VE HEARD THAT COUNTLESS TIMES---BUT YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MOST OF SUCH CASES CAN BE EXPLAINED BY NATURAL CAUSES!



NATURAL? WOULD YOU CALL IT NATURAL FOR STRANGE SINGING TO BE HEARD AT MIDNIGHT---FOR LIGHTS TO APPEAR OUT OF NOWHERE, TOGETHER WITH THE FIGURE OF A WOMAN WHO THEN VANISHES? ANYBODY'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO STAY IN THAT PLACE---AND THE SOONER ANDERSON PROPERTIES, INC., GETS RID OF IT, THE BETTER OFF THEY'LL BE!

I KNEW THAT THE "SUPERNATURAL" WAS TOO OFTEN FADED AS A MEANS OF DRIVING PROPERTY VALUES DOWN! SO I TOOK A LOOK AT THE OLD HOUSE...

BUT WHAT WOULD ANYONE WANT WITH AN OLD PLACE LIKE THAT? IF IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF IT'S WORTH FAKING ALL THIS FOR---UNLESS THERE'S SOME OTHER VALUE TO IT THAT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT!



WELL, I'VE GOT CONNECTIONS---AND I USED THEM TO GET CLOSE TO THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF CARRTOWN---WHO LET SLIP AN INTERESTING FACT...

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE I KNOW IT WON'T GO ANY FURTHER THAT I'M TELLING YOU THIS, MR. JONES---BUT FOR SOME TIME, THE CITY'S BEEN PLANNING TO BUILD A NEW STREET THAT'LL THANK GO RIGHT THROUGH YOU! YOU THAT OLD PLACE! IT'LL BE WORTH MONEY THEN, OF COURSE! ON MY DISCRETION TO COURSE!

HALL KEEP IT SECRET!



SO THAT WAS IT! OBVIOUSLY, SOMEONE MUST HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE NEW STREET... AND WAS TRYING TO PICK UP THE HOUSE FOR A SONG BY SCARING OUT ITS TENANTS! THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

...AND WHAT I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT, SIR, IS WHETHER ANYBODY'S BEEN TRYING TO **BUY THE PLACE FROM YOUR COMPANY!**

WHY, YES... RUFUS DEAKINS HIMSELF... OUR AGENT OUT THERE! HE'S MADE SEVERAL OFFERS, BUT THEY'RE FAR TOO LOW!

I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN IT! DEAKINS MUST HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE NEW STREET TOO, AND WAS THE MAN BEHIND THE SUPPOSED MANIFESTATIONS! BUT I HAD TO PROVE IT BY CATCHING HIM IN THE ACT...

I'M SPENDING THE NIGHT IN THAT OLD HOUSE, MR. DEAKINS! I'M GOING TO PROVE TO THE WORLD THAT THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT!

NO... DON'T DO THAT! IT'S DANGEROUS, MAN! SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU!

BUT HE WASN'T TALKING ME OUT OF IT! I GOT THERE AT TEN AND CALMLY WENT TO SLEEP! BUT EXACTLY AT MIDNIGHT, SOMETHING AWOKE ME...

OH, DON'T YOU... REMEMBER... SWEET ALICE...
IT'S A WOMAN'S VOICE... BUT THERE'S NO WOMAN THERE!

I'D SPOKEN TOO SOON... BECAUSE THERE, TAKING SHAPE BEFORE MY EYES...

WELL, I'LL BE---! THERE SHE COMES NOW!

THE NEXT MOMENT, SHE HAD VANISHED! NOW DANCING LIGHTS APPEARED...

THEY SEEM TO BE TRYING TO LEAD ME SOMEWHERE! OKAY... I'LL PLAY ALONG!

THEY'RE GOING TOWARDS THAT ROOM... AND THE MUSICAL STRAINS ARE GETTING LOUDER! IT'S AN OLD SONG... "SWEET ALICE BEN BOLT!"

THE LIGHTS SEEM TO BE COMING FROM THAT CLOSET! I'LL BET RUFUS DEAKINS IS IN THERE WORKING THE DEVICES RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THESE ILLUSIONS! HE PROBABLY FIGURES NOBODY WOULD EVER DARE TRACE THIS HOCUS-POCUS ALL THE WAY DOWN HERE!

OKAY, DEAKINS! YOU CAN COME OUT NOW... WITH YOUR HANDS UP!



HOLY SMOKE!
THERE'S...
NOBODY THERE!



THERE WERE NO MORE LIGHTS, NO MORE MUSIC! I'D JUST BEEN LED THERE... TO NOTHING! PUZZLED, I MADE A CAREFUL SEARCH THROUGH THE HOUSE...

I GIVE UP! THERE'S

NO TRACE OF A HIDDEN PROJECTOR WHICH MIGHT HAVE THROWN THE IMAGE OF THAT WOMAN--NO ELECTRICAL DEVICE THAT COULD HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LIGHTS--NO RECORD PLAYER FOR THE VOICE...



NO... THERE WASN'T A SHRED OF EVIDENCE AGAINST DEAKINS! IN DESPAIR, I TRIED A BLUFF...

YOU'RE THE MAN BEHIND THOSE STRANGE OCCURRENCES AT THE OLD HOUSE, DEAKINS, AND I'VE GOT PROOF! IT WAS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO DRIVE THE VALUE DOWN AND TAKE OVER, AND YOU'RE GUILTY OF CONSPIRACY AND FRAUD!

NO... NO!
I'LL ADMIT I DID TRY TO BUY THE PLACE, BECAUSE I'D LEARNED A STREET WAS GOING THROUGH THERE THAT WOULD MAKE IT VALUABLE...



... I'D HOPED, BECAUSE OF THE STRANGE MANIFESTATIONS, THAT I COULD PICK UP THE HOUSE AT A LOW PRICE AND MAKE A BIG PROFIT--BUT I NEVER CAUSED THOSE MANIFESTATIONS! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEM--EXCEPT THAT THEY'VE BEEN GOING ON SINCE BEFORE I EVEN CAME TO THIS TOWN!



THAT PUT A NEW BEE IN MY BONNET, AND I DETERMINED TO DISCOVER HOW FAR BACK THESE "MANIFESTATIONS" REALLY WENT! SO...

I'VE BEEN EDITOR FOR THIRTY YEARS-- AND THE STORIES ABOUT THAT OLD PLACE GO BACK EVEN BEFORE THEN! I'M A NEWSPAPERMAN, AND I SHOULDN'T BELIEVE STUFF LIKE THAT--BUT FRANKLY, SOMETIMES I WONDER!



ALL RIGHT--I WAS IN FOR IT AND I'D SEE IT THROUGH! IF I HAD TO, I'D GO BACK TO THE BEGINNINGS OF THE OLD STRUCTURE TO LEARN THE TRUTH! THE CITY PROPERTY RECORDS REVEALED...

LET'S SEE--BUILT IN 1869 BY WEALTHY ANDREW MASON--INHERITED BY HIS DAUGHTER SHORTLY AFTER! FIRST TRANSFER OF THE PROPERTY, 1875-- THEN IT BEGAN CHANGING HANDS RAPIDLY, NOBODY KEEPING IT FOR LONG!



SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED AROUND 1875 IN THE MASON FAMILY TO MAKE THEM DISPOSE OF THE PLACE---AND WHATEVER IT WAS MADE EVERYBODY ELSE WANT TO GET RID OF IT QUICKLY! I'D BETTER LOOK UP THE NEWSPAPERS OF THE PERIOD...

AND SO I WENT OVER THE CARRTOWN HERALD FOR 1875, LOOKING FOR ANY BIG NEWS! THE FIRST I FOUND DIDN'T SEEM TO PROMISE MUCH...

DEPT.
OF
HOUSES

CARRTOWN HERALD
OCTOBER 1ST, 1875

SURPRISE EARTHQUAKE JARS TOWN VIOLENTLY
NO INJURIES---TREMOR TAKES PLACE AT EXACTLY MIDNIGHT

WELL, THAT WOULDN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY BEARING ON THE CASE! I'D BETTER LOOK FURTHER!

BUT THE NEXT WEEK CAME A SIGNIFICANT HEADLINE ...

CARRTOWN HERALD

OCTOBER 8, 1875

Alice Wills disappears from Mason home

Daughter of Andrew Mason had recently been wed to Randolph Wills, well-known adventurer and soldier of fortune.



HEY, THIS MAY BE IT! HMMMM---IT SAYS HER HUSBAND HAD NO IDEA OF WHERE SHE MIGHT HAVE VANISHED TO...

READING THE ANCIENT COLUMNS, I SAW, WEEK BY WEEK, HOW SUSPICION GREW AMONG THE TOWNS-PEOPLE...

RANDOLPH WILLS WAS BROKE WHEN HE MARRIED ALICE MASON---NOT A CENT TO HIS NAME! AND HE CHARMED THIS POOR LITTLE SMALLTOWN GIRL...

SHE WAS A MASON, AND NONE OF THE MASONS EVER TRUSTED BANKS---EVERYBODY KNOWS THEY KEPT THEIR FORTUNE HIDDEN IN THE HOUSE! THE OLD MAN USED TO BOAST ABOUT IT!

RIGHT! IF WILLS IS ON THE LEVEL---LET HIM PRODUCE THE MONEY!



BUT WILLS COULDN'T PRODUCE IT---HE SAID HE KNEW OF NO HIDDEN FORTUNE! AND AS THE DAYS PASSED, AND ALICE WASN'T FOUND...

RANDOLPH WILLS, I'M TAKING YOU INTO CUSTODY ON SUSPICION OF HOMICIDE!



CONSIDERING THE STATE OF PUBLIC OPINION, IT WAS NO WONDER THAT THE TRIAL WAS RIGGED AGAINST HIM...

MR. WILLS HAD GIVEN ME THE DAY OFF! NOW I CAN SEE WHY---BECAUSE THAT WAS THE LAST I SAW OF POOR MISS ALICE!



THE JUDGE HANDED DOWN HIS VERDICT---

RANDOLPH WILLS, THE VERDICT OF THIS COURT IS THAT YOU ARE GUILTY! YOU WILL APPEAR BEFORE ME NEXT TUESDAY FOR SENTENCING!



BUT IT WAS A SENTENCE THAT
WAS NEVER PASSED, AS THE
NEXT ISSUE OF THE
CARTTOWN HERALD
SHOWED...



I CONTINUED MY SEARCH UNTIL I
FOUND SEVERAL MORE PERTINENT
NEWS STORIES...



RUFUS DEAKINS WAS CLEARED,
BUT NOW I WAS IN TROUBLE...
BECAUSE I SEEMED TO HAVE
A CASE ON MY HANDS THAT I
COULDN'T SOLVE!

I'M GOING TO SPEND ONE
MORE NIGHT THERE! I'VE GOT
TO BE SURE THAT THERE ARE
NO NATURAL CAUSES BEHIND
THE MANIFESTATIONS! AFTER
ALL, THE WIND SOMETIMES
CAUSES STRANGE SOUNDS
... AND MOONLIGHT AND
SHADOW CAN PRODUCE
ODD IMAGES...

BUT ONCE MORE I WAS AWAKENED AT MIDNIGHT BY
THAT PLAINTIVE SONG...



AND ONCE MORE THAT FIGURE MATERIALIZED BEFORE
MY EYES...



AGAIN THE STRANGE LIGHTS, LEADING ME
TOWARDS THAT CLOSET...



BUT WHAT'S WAITING?
IT'S JUST LIKE BEFORE
... THERE'S NOTHING
THERE!



WAIT A SECOND ... SOMETHING'S COMING TO ME! THAT MYSTERIOUS SONG ABOUT SWEET ALICE! THAT WAS HER NAME, THE GIRL WHO DISAPPEARED FROM THIS HOUSE SO LONG AGO ... ALICE! THIS WHOLE THING'S GOT TO HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER!



THE WHOLE THING WOULD HAVE TO HAPPEN AT MIDNIGHT, TRADITIONAL TIME OF THE SUPERNATURAL! MIDNIGHT ... IT RANG A BELL SUDDENLY ... WHERE HAD I SEEN REFERENCE TO THAT TIME JUST RECENTLY?



BUT WHAT COULD THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ALICE'S DISAPPEARANCE? THE HOUSE HADN'T BEEN REPORTED DAMAGED BY THE QUAKE ...

HEY ... HER DISAPPEARANCE WAS REPORTED IN THE PAPER A WEEK AFTER THE QUAKE STORY ... BUT IT WAS A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT THE TIME! SHE MAY HAVE VANISHED A LOT CLOSER TO THE TIME OF THE QUAKE!



STRANGE HOW THE LINE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL OLD PANELING IS BROKEN UP BY THIS CLOSET STUCK HERE! FUNNY ... THEY DIDN'T GO IN FOR BUILDING CLOSETS WHEN THIS PLACE WAS PUT UP ... THEY RELIED MORE ON WARDROBES!



THE THOUGHT KEPT NAGGING ME! AND SO, AT THE BUILDING BUREAU, I DUG UP THE ORIGINAL PLANS FOR THE HOUSE ...



THE NEXT NIGHT, I HAD WORKMEN IN TO DEMOLISH THE CLOSET! I CALLED THE POLICE IN, TOO ...

BUT WHAT DID YOU WANT US FOR? I DON'T GET IT!

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE APT TO RUN INTO IN A DEAL LIKE THIS! IF IT'S WHAT I THINK IT IS, YOU GENTLEMEN OUGHT TO BE ON HAND!



I STILL SAY WE'RE WASTIN' OUR TIME HERE!

OKAY, MISTER ... THE JOB'S DONE!

NOT YET! TAKE DOWN THOSE BOARDS THAT LINED THE CLOSET ... I'D LIKE TO SEE IF THE ROOM'S PANELING CONTINUES BEHIND THEM!



THE LAST BOARD WAS REMOVED AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT, REVEALING THE PANELING BEHIND! AND SIMULTANEOUSLY...



THEN SHE APPEARED AGAIN...THAT SAME WOMAN! SHE WAS SMILING TRIUMPHANTLY NOW, AS SHE POINTED TO A SPOT IN THE PANELED WALL NOW LAID BARE BY THE REMOVAL OF THE CLOSET...



A FLASH...AND SHE HAD DISAPPEARED!



AS MY FINGERS EXPLORED THE ANCIENT WOOD, THERE WAS A MUFFLED CLICK...AND...



HOW FAR DOES THIS GO DOWN, ANYWAY? QUITE A WAY...OBVIOUSLY WE'RE ALREADY FAR BELOW THE CELLARS OF THIS OLD PLACE!



IN AMAZEMENT, ONE OF THE POLICEMEN STEPPED BACKWARDS... AND IT WAS ALMOST HIS END! ONLY MY QUICKNESS SAVED HIM FROM A CREVASSUE IN THE FLOOR OF THE CAVE THAT WE HADN'T SEEN...

UH...

STEADY!
I'VE GOT
YOU!

IT GOES DOWN
PLENTY DEEP! I
WONDER WHAT
IT IS?

I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
FETCH A LONG COIL
OF ROPE... I'M
GOING DOWN!

THEY TRIED TO ARGUE ME OUT OF IT, BUT MY MIND WAS MADE UP! DOWN I WENT--DOWN AND DOWN--AND WHEN THEY FINALLY PULLED ME UP...

WHAT'S THAT YOU GOT? HEY... IT LOOKS LIKE THE SHAWL THAT WOMAN WAS WEARING --- THE ONE THAT APPEARED AND DISAPPEARED!

YES, AND THAT...THAT'S NOT ALL THAT'S DOWN THERE!

THERE'S... A HUMAN SKELETON AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CREVASSUE... A WOMAN'S, TO JUDGE BY THE REMNANTS OF CLOTHING!

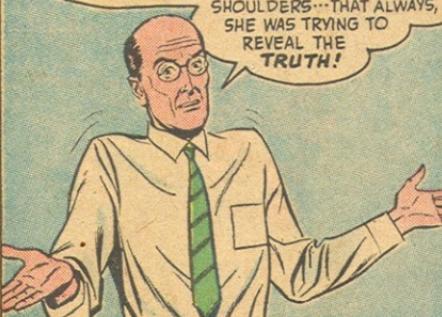
DON'T YOU SEE? THE FAMILY FORTUNE WAS KEPT IN THIS CAVERN--AND ALICE HAD THE BAD LUCK TO BE HERE AT THE EXACT MOMENT THE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK! IT OPENED THAT CREVASSUE, AND SHE FELL INTO IT AND WAS KILLED! HER POOR HUSBAND WAS ADJUDGED GUILTY OF HER DEATH

...BUT HE WAS INNOCENT!

MEAN--THAT'S WHAT WAS BEHIND ALL THE STORIES ABOUT THIS HOUSE--?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT! LISTEN--I'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS A LONG, LONG TIME! BELIEVERS IN THE SUPERNATURAL WOULD CLAIM THAT ALICE WILLS' SPIRIT WAS NEVER AT REST, AS LONG AS THE BURDEN OF UNFAIR GUILT LAY ON HER HUSBAND'S SHOULDERS... THAT ALWAYS, SHE WAS TRYING TO REVEAL THE TRUTH!

BUT SCIENCE WOULD CLAIM OTHERWISE! IT WOULD SAY THAT HUMAN EMOTIONS LEAVE A SURCHARGED ATMOSPHERE BEHIND THEM THAT PERTAINS LONG AFTER THEY'VE DEPARTED! AND SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE MIGHT PRODUCE A CONSTANT MASS HYPNOSIS THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHAT PEOPLE THINK THEY SAW AND HEARD! ALL I CAN DO IS MARK THIS CASE SOLVED... AND YOU'RE ENTITLED TO YOUR OWN OPINIONS!



9 WELL, READER? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

The END!

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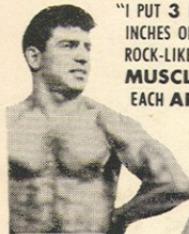
TONY PASCARELLA

BEFORE



"Here's me—a bag-of-bones weakling before I mailed the coupon."

AFTER



"I ADDED 3 NEW INCHES TO MY CHEST."

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BOOKS
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THEM!

1
says John Sill

HOW TO MOLD A
MIGHTY CHEST

By GEORGE F. JOWETT

"I added
7 inches to my
CHEST
3 inches to each
ARM."
Says
Jobie
Jackson

HOW TO MOLD A
MIGHTY ARM

By GEORGE F. JOWETT

3
3

HOW TO MOLD A
MIGHTY BACK

By GEORGE F. JOWETT

2
2
DO AS I DID
HOW TO MOLD A
MIGHTY GRIP
By GEORGE F. JOWETT

4
4
HOW TO MOLD
MIGHTY LEGS
By GEORGE F. JOWETT

5
5
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YOU CAN WIN

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and \$100 IN CASH
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